decided. Out of 476 potentially viable sick units in the small scale sector, 321 were put under nursing programmes as at the ned of March, 1990. Out of 40 sick units in the non-SSI Sector, 2 units were put under nursing programmes as at the end of September, 1990.

(c) No time-frame within which the viable units could be revived can be indicated.

(d) such data are not centrally maintained.

[*English*]

Supply of Coal

2516. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: "

(a) whether the Union Government propose to beneficiate all types of coal being supplied to power and other sectors;

(b) whether most of coal reserves are of inferior grades;

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken to improve coal supplies to various consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Most of the coking coal supplied to the Steel sector is being washed before despatch. An Expert Committee set up by the Government had recommended use of beneficiated non-coking coal in new thermal power stations located more than 1000 Kms. away from the coalfields. Accordingly, it has been decided to set up pit-head coal beneficiation plant for power grade coal for supply to distant power stations which are willing to bear the extra cost of beneficiation.

(b) Over 60% of coal resources in the country are of inferior grades.

(c) and (d). Complaints on quality of coal supplied to power and other sectors generally relate to supply of over-size coal, presence of extraneous materials such as shales and stones etc. To overcome these problems, provision during mining of Coal, segregation of stones at the time of loading and setting up beneficiation plants are some of the steps being taken by the coal companies.

[*Translation*]

Entry into Government Service

2517. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the upper age limit for recruitment to the Central Government services;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). The existing age limits for appointment to various posts have been fixed keeping in view the nature of duties and requirement of educational qualifications etc. At present, there is no proposal to raise the age limits.

Medium and Large Industries in U.P.

2518. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: